GREATER YELLOWSTONE NETWORK – OVERVIEW – NOVEMBER 2005
BRIEFING STATEMENT

Location and Scope: The Greater Yellowstone Inventory and Monitoring Network (GRYN) consist of four park units located within and around the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, encompassing parts of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. The park units include: Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area (BICA), John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway (JODR), Grand Teton National Park (GRTE) and Yellowstone National Park (YELL). Most of the GRYN staff is co-located with the USGS Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center at Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana. The GRYN hydrologist is duty-stationed at GRTE and the administrative assistant is duty-stationed in Lakewood, CO.

Funding	FY04	FY05	FY06
Inventory Program	$148,000.00	-	
Water Quality Monitoring	$71,000.00	$71,000.00	$71,000.00
Vital Signs Monitoring	$724,670.00	$724,670.00	$724,670.00
Total	$943,670.00	$795,670.00	$795,670.00
Total after assessments	$931,000.00	$790,790.00	Unknown

Board of Directors:

Frank Walker, Deputy Superintendent	Yellowstone National Park
Jim Bellamy, Deputy Superintendent (Chair 2005)	Grand Teton National Park
Darrell Cook, Superintendent (Chair 2004)	Bighorn Canyon NRA
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Cathie Jean	I & M Program Manager, Greater Yellowstone Network

Staffing:

I&M Program Manager: Cathie Jean	406-994-7530
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Admin Assistant: Gay Shockley(0.5 FTE)	303-969-2450
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Vegetation Ecologist (BSI-MSU): Elizabeth Crowe 406-994-7202

Vascular Plant and Vertebrate Inventory Overview: The GRYN has finished the field component of the biological inventories and is now in the process of incorporating the results into the NPS servicewide databases as final reports become available. An important and related accomplishment is the certification of vascular plant and vertebrate records in the NPSpecies database (a Service-wide application). In FY 2005 the GRYN completed the quality control and certification activities for all vertebrate taxa groups in BICA, GRTE and YELL and for vascular plants in GRTE and YELL (vascular plant certification in BICA is forthcoming). Certification helps assure that only quality data are released to the public and sensitive data are protected. The NPSpecies database now contains information on park status, abundance, residency (animals only) and nativity for plants and animals.

Water Quality Monitoring Overview: The Regulatory Water Quality Monitoring protocol was completed, peer reviewed and implemented in FY05. This protocol specifically addresses monitoring of the 303(d) water quality impaired streams in Yellowstone NP and also in Bighorn Canyon NRA. The standard operating procedures, which include everything from sampling procedures, data management and quality assurance/quality control, form the foundation for future water quality monitoring in the Outstanding Natural Resource Waters in the GRYN.

Vital Signs Monitoring Overview: In FY 2005 the GRYN completed the Vital Signs Monitoring Plan and the Washington Support Office (WASO) gave final approval for the network to begin monitoring vital signs. This major accomplishment achieves goal 1b3b 'Vital Signs Implemented' of the NPS Strategic Plan and represents an important transition from the planning phase to the implementation phase of the program. Meanwhile the GRYN has begun the pilot phase of several monitoring protocols including Whitebark pine, Amphibians, Aridland seeps and springs, and Landbirds. A number of GRYN vital signs tier to existing on-going monitoring e.g. climate, streamflow and land use; in these cases, monitoring protocols that address data stewardship, analysis and reporting are in progress.